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UNH Launches New Writing Minor

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UNH Media Relations

June 3, 2009

DURHAM, N.H. - The University of New Hampshire College of Liberal Arts has launched a new writing minor program in response to growing student interest in writing and increasing employer demand for higher levels of writing skills in the workplace.

"The College of Liberal Arts is pleased to be able to provide this new opportunity to students throughout the university. Students will now be able to work on their writing skills in a comprehensive way, leading to recognition of their accomplishments in the form of a minor," said Ken Fuld, interim dean of the UNH College of Liberal Arts.

UNH has seen interest in writing grow among students in recent years as evidenced by the growth of students enrolled in journalism classes and increase in students engaged in new technologies that involve writing and publication, particularly in the online environment. In addition, there has been a rapid development of similar writing minors at universities nationwide.

The goal of the writing minor is to give students with majors outside of English an opportunity to take a concentration of courses focused on the creative and practical uses of writing.

"Students from all majors can tailor their coursework in writing to fit their needs and interests, whether those tend to technical writing, creative writing, news writing, or academic writing. With this minor, we've responded to growing interest from students across disciplines and to the needs of a wide variety of employers who stress the importance of writing skills," Fuld said.

The writing minor will be offered beginning in fall 2009 and will consist of five four-credit writing courses. Students can take a sequence of thematic courses, such as those focused on journalism and creative writing, or can take a mix of the more than 20 courses that qualify for the minor. In the next few years, the college hopes to expand its writing courses to include technical and business writing.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

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